

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 INR-05 SP-02 ARA-06 NEA-06

EUR-08 EA-06 L-01 EB-03 RSC-01 /060 W

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R 050200Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8196

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5708

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN AORG

SUBJ: UNIDO: REPLACING ABDEL-RAHMAN

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMB BENNETT DEC 4 SYG WALDHEIM SAID HE WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO FIRES ON QUESTION OF REPLACING ABDEL-RAHMAN AS HEAD OF UNIDO. LATIN GROUP IS MILITANTLY SUPPORTING FERNANDINI, DESPITE HIS PERSONAL UNSUITABILITY. AFRICANS WERE SUPPORTING ALGERIAN KHENE, A PRESENTABLE CANDIDATE, WITH EQUAL FERVOR. IF SYG NOMINATED FERNANDINI, IT ALMOST CERTAIN AFRICANS WOULD CHALLENGE AND FORCE VOTE, WITH LIKELIHOOD SYG NOMINEE WOULD BE REJECTED. ON OTHER HAND, LATINS WERE TAKING POSITION THAT AFRICANS WERE OUT OF ORDER IN NOMINATING RIVAL CANDIDATE. IF KHENE GOT POST, LA'S THREATENED "NEVER TO SUPPORT ANOTHER AFRICAN FOR ANY JOB IN UN SYSTEM."

2. ONE POSSIBLE WAY OUT WOULD BE TO SEEK LA CONSENT TO KHENE NOMINATION ON EXPLICIT UNDERSTANDING THAT WHEN MAURICE STRONG LEAVES UNEP, A LATIN WOULD GET THAT POST. WALDHEIM HAD IN MIND POSSIBILITY THAT LA'S WOULD NOMINATE
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PEREZ DE CUELLAR, PERUVIAN PERMREP, TO REPLACE STRONG.

WALDHEIM THOUGHT EVERYONE WOULD LIKE THIS ARRANGEMENT EXCEPT FERNANDINI (WHO IS ALSO A PERUVIAN). WALDHEIM WANTED TO KNOW WHAT USG THOUGHT OF THIS PROPOSAL BEFORE TRYING IT OUT ON LA AND AF GROUP LEADERS.

3. COMMENT: AMB BENNETT NOTED THAT PEREZ DE CUELLAR MIGHT, OWING TO HIS WIFE'S HEALTH, BE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT UNLESS GENEVA RATHER THAN NAIROBI COULD BE HIS PRIMARY RESIDENCE.
BENNETT

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